

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 03114 081600Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----017993 081630Z /53
O 081434Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1738
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
UREHDT/USMISSION USUN IMMEDIATE 5388
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 3114

EXDIS

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, XF, UN, APER
SUBJECT: SECURITY AND SAFETY OF UN MILITARY OBSERVERS IN LEBANON

REF: A) STATE 59120, B) JERUSALEM 678

1. WE WILL TRY TO FIND OUT WHAT THE ISRAELIS ARE ACTUALLY DOING TO "BRING THE CHRISTIANS UNDER CONTROL," AS INSTRUCTED IN REF A, PARA E. BUT WE SHOULD POINT OUT THAT OUR ONLY SOURCES OF INFORMATION ARE THE ISRAELIS THEMSELVES, AND WE CANNOT ASSUME WE WILL BE GETTING NECESSARILY TOTALLY RELIABLE INFORMATION.

2. IN LIGHT OF REF B, WE WILL NOT RPT NOT GO AFTER THE ISRAELIS ABOUT THEIR ALLEGED "DIRECT HARRASSMENT OF UNMO'S." FRANKLY, THIS SMALL EXAMPLE UNDERSCORES THE
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IMPORTANCE OF NOT ACCEPTING INITIAL UN OBSERVER ASSESSMENTS AS GOSPEL, ESPECIALLY WHEN THE CHRISTIAN ELEMENTS ARE CLEARLY USING IDF-FURNISHED UNIFORMS OR PARTS OF UNIFORMS AND IDF-FURNISHED EQUIPMENT. WE MUST BE EXTREMELY CAREFUL WHEN WE PROTEST TO THE ISRAELIS TO HAVE OUR FACTS AS STRAIGHT AS POSSIBLE. I HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO RELUCTANCE ABOUT TOUGH TALK, BUT IF IT

PROVES TO BE FREQUENTLY BASED ON INACCURATE INFORMATION
IT LOSES A GOOD DEAL OF ITS CREDIBILITY WITH SENIOR
ISRAELI OFFICIALS. THE SAME POINT APPLIES TO THE ORIGIN
OF ARTILLERY SHELLS IN THE BORDER AREA.

3. JERUSALEM'S 678 REPORTS THAT IDF CHIEF OF STAFF GUR
HAS INSTRUCTED THE CHIEF OF NORTHERN COMMAND TO TRY TO
GET THE CHRISTIANS TO STOP HARRASSMENT OF UNMO'S.
THIS PROBABLY REFLECTS MY REPRESENTATIONS
TO WEIZMAN.
JERUSALEM'S 694 SUGGESTS MESSAGE HAS APPARENTLY HAD SOME
EFFECT.

4. BEYOND WHAT HAS ALREADY BEEN DONE, I SUGGEST MOST
EFFECTIVE ADDITION WOULD BE FOR SECRETARY VANCE TO
RAISE ISSUE MARCH 9 WITH WEIZMAN DURING THEIR MEETING IN
WASHINGTON. IF HE DOES NOT, STRENGTH OF MY REPRESENTATIONS
HERE COULD BE UNDERCUT.
LEWIS

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NNN

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